

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/510,894
Date of Office Action: 09/20/07
Response dated: 12/19/07

PATENT
PU020113

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the Office Action of September 20, 2007. Claims 1 and 15 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Re: Rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-20

Claims 1-2 and 4-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,606,443 issued to Sgambati (hereinafter, "Sgambati"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

It is first noted that independent claims 1 and 15, as amended, herein recite:

"a first circuit having an output line and an input line;

'a second circuit having an input line for receiving signals from the output line of the first circuit, and an output line for transmitting signals to the input line of the first circuit; and

'a control circuit having input lines for receiving the signals from the output lines of the first and second circuits, the control circuit inhibiting the signals transmitted from the output line of the second circuit to the input line of the first circuit when the first circuit is transmitting signals to the input line of the second circuit and thereby preventing the second circuit from re-transmitting the signals received from the first circuit back to the first circuit and further preventing the first circuit from generating an interrupt signal" (emphasis added; see claim 1), and

"detecting a mode of operation of the system;

'if the mode is a first mode, allowing the serial interface circuit to transmit signals to the receiver-transmitter circuit; and

'if the mode is a second mode, detecting whether the receiver-transmitter circuit is transmitting signals to the serial interface circuit, and if the receiver-transmitter circuit is transmitting signals to the serial interface circuit, prohibiting the serial interface circuit from re-transmitting the signals received from the receiver-transmitter circuit back to the receiver-transmitter circuit and thereby preventing the

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receiver-transmitter circuit from generating an interrupt signal"
(emphasis added; see claim 15)

As indicated above, independent claim 1 recites a "control circuit" that performs a signal "inhibiting" function in an environment in which two circuits (i.e., a "first circuit" and a "second circuit") are capable of transmitting signals back and forth with each other. Independent claim 15 recites a similar function, but in method format. By performing this "inhibiting" function, the claimed invention advantageously prevents one of the circuits (i.e., the "second circuit" in claim 1 and the "serial interface circuit" in claim 15) from re-transmitting the signals it receives from the other circuit (i.e., the "first circuit" in claim 1 and the "receiver-transmitter circuit" in claim 15) back to the other circuit. By preventing this unnecessary signal feedback, the claimed invention also advantageously prevents the generation of an unnecessary interrupt signal, and thereby solves the specific problems discussed on page 2, lines 10-16 of Applicant's disclosure.

Neither Applicant's admitted prior art nor Sgambati, whether taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the aforementioned features of independent claims 1 and 15. In formulating the instant rejection, the Examiner admits that Applicant's admitted prior art fails to teach the "control circuit" of claim 1. To remedy this deficiency, the Examiner alleges that controller 10 of Sgambati corresponds to the claimed "control circuit" of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner alleges that NOR gate 140 of Sgambati (see FIG. 4B) performs the claimed "inhibiting" function described above (see pages 3-4 and 7 of the Office Action dated September 20, 2007 – claim 15 rejected on the same basis as claim 1).

In response, Applicant notes that controller 10 of Sgambati does not properly correspond to the "control circuit" of claim 1, as amended herein. In particular, controller 10 of Sgambati does not prevent one circuit from re-transmitting the signals it receives from another circuit back to that other circuit, as claimed (see column 5, line 51 to column 7, line 20). Accordingly, the proposed combination of Applicant's admitted prior art and Sgambati fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. Moreover, neither Applicant's admitted prior art nor Sgambati recognizes or addresses the specific problems that are solved by the inventions of independent claims 1 and 15, as recited above. Therefore, independent claims 1

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and 15 and their respective dependent claims are deemed allowable over the proposed combination of Applicant's admitted prior art and Sgambati, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the accompanying amendments and remarks/arguments, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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